

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

SUBJECT: Range Resources, 1085 McAdams Road, Washington, PA

FROM: Paula Curtin *PAC 8/19/11*
Spill Enforcement Coordinator (3HS61)

TO: Joan Armstrong, Chief *JA 8/30/11*
Oil and Prevention Branch (3HS61)

THRU: Karen Melvin, Associate Division Director
Office of Enforcement (3HS60) *JA for KM 8/30/11*

On April 1, 2011, an Information Request letter pursuant to Section 308 of the Clean Water Act was issued to Range Resources. The request was sent as a result of a March 10, 2011 notification to the NRC by a resident of the area reporting a release of frac water onto the ground and potentially into a drinking water well. The incident location was 1085 McAdams Road, Washington County, PA. On August 1, 2011, EPA received a response from Range Resources.

According to the response from Range, on March 11, 2011, Highland Environmental, the waste water hauler contracted by Range, was filtering groundwater from drilling the vertical section of the Yeager United Well 1H from the reserve pit on the Yeager well pad. After filtering the water, Highland loaded the water into the trucks for offsite disposal. While the truck was leaving the site, approximately 20 gallons of the filtered water was released from the pressure relief valve on the side of the truck. The water ran down the access road and across McAdams Road. The water was heavily diluted due to the heavy rain that was occurring at the time of discharge. Range put down absorbent pads.

According to the response, areas where the water pooled were tested with field meters for TDS and conductivity. None of the water tested indicated elevated levels of TDS or conductivity. The 20 gallons of water was boomed in the vicinity of the initial discharge and no material left the site or entered a waterway.

Vince Yanko, Supervisor of the Oil and Gas Inspectors, South East Region confirmed the above information to be accurate. Under State law, all spills and discharges are subject to civil penalties. PADEP is currently in the process reviewing similar violations of Range and combining into one civil penalty assessment. Under the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act, it is illegal to discharge brine or other fluids on or into the ground.

Based on the review of the response, and conversation with PADEP, it has been determined that no discharge to navigable waters of the U.S. can be substantiated.

Based on current information available, there is no further action under 311(b)(3) being contemplated at this time. EPA reserves the right to conduct future investigations and bring future enforcement actions, as appropriate.